



NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD - **Public Hearing**

Conrail Derailment in Paulsboro, NJ with Vinyl Chloride Release

GROUP	3
EXHIBIT	
AW	

Agency / Organization

New Jersey State Police

Title

New Jersey State Police (NJSP 20)

Incident Action Plan Nov-30-2012

**NEW JERSEY STATE POLICE
OFFICE OF EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT
INCIDENT ACTION REPORT**

1600 hours 11/30

At this time, the command post is operating at the Gloucester County Fire Marshall's office in Clarksboro.

Operational Period: 0700 - 1900 hours (Daylight operations only) beginning 12/1

Incident Objectives:

1. Life Safety of the public, emergency responders, and support agencies
2. Protection of the Environment
3. Managing coordinated inter agency response
4. Preserve evidence
5. Collecting and disseminating of information in a timely manner
6. Stabilization of rail cars

At 1430 hours, high tide caused elevated readings, above 1 ppm, for Vinyl Chloride Stabilizer in the area of the incident. Paulsboro OEM will declare a local state of emergency, the local state of emergency will include the following:

- Evacuation Order for residents confined to the area of Commerce Street, Railroad Avenue, and Broad Street, which includes 40-45 residents
- 8 pm curfew for Paulsboro residents

Residents being evacuated will report to the Paulsboro Fire Department reception center being supported by Red Cross. At this time, the residents will be registered and will file a claim with Conrail for temporary housing.

1800 hours 11/30

Emergency crews were being staged at the Gloucester County Fire Academy in neighboring Clarksboro. A decontamination unit was placed at the scene, and an environmental remediation company was called out to the scene by CSX to place booms in the creek. The Gloucester County HazMat Team and HazMat Team from PRC Refinery were metering and monitoring the site. The County has all available and appropriate Emergency Responders on the scene where six railcars have derailed and 4 cars overturned into the Mantua Creek and one is breached leaking vinyl chloride. Two of the cars are derailed and four cars contain vinyl chloride, one car contains pelletized plastic, one car contains denatured alcohol.

Based on upcoming site work and current air monitoring, the decision by unified command to expand the evacuation to a 12 block area has been made and currently being executed, this will be approximately 500 residences within Paulsboro. Conrail is paying for food and lodging. Residents are being told to prepare for a 3 day evacuation.

On Saturday morning, the breached tank will be flushed out to remove any excess vinyl chloride. Air monitoring is in place and a long term plan will be developed tonight. Water monitoring will need to be developed and water intakes have been notified along the Delaware River as a precaution.

A request by the NJSP ERB to the Unified Command was made to have medical testing be made available to first responders that may have been exposed to Vinyl Chloride. The US Coast Guard requested Conrail to provide this testing which would be performed by the Conrail contractor, CTEH. CTEH medical team would be on scene Saturday morning.

0700 Hours 12/1

The incident Command Post has been moved to Gloucester County Fire Academy, 212 County House Road, Clarksboro NJ. A unified command consisting of Coast Guard, NJDEP, NJOEM, Conrail, and Paulsboro Fire Department has been established.

The mandatory evacuation which includes the confined area of Railroad Ave, Delaware Ave and Broad Street was completed. Paulsboro Police Department determined the evacuation was 90% compliant. 98 residents were registered and were provided temporary housing by Conrail. 48 of these residents were in hotel rooms. Hazmat Monitoring will continue into the night.

We were informed that the flushing operations were scrubbed and a new plan was being developed.